ALL NEW ACTION! TRUE BLUE ADVENTURE!

SONIC™ THE HEDGEHOG

Archie COMICS

SEGA®

ISSUE 255

COUNTDOWN TO CHAOS!

PART THREE

ARCHIECOMICS.COM

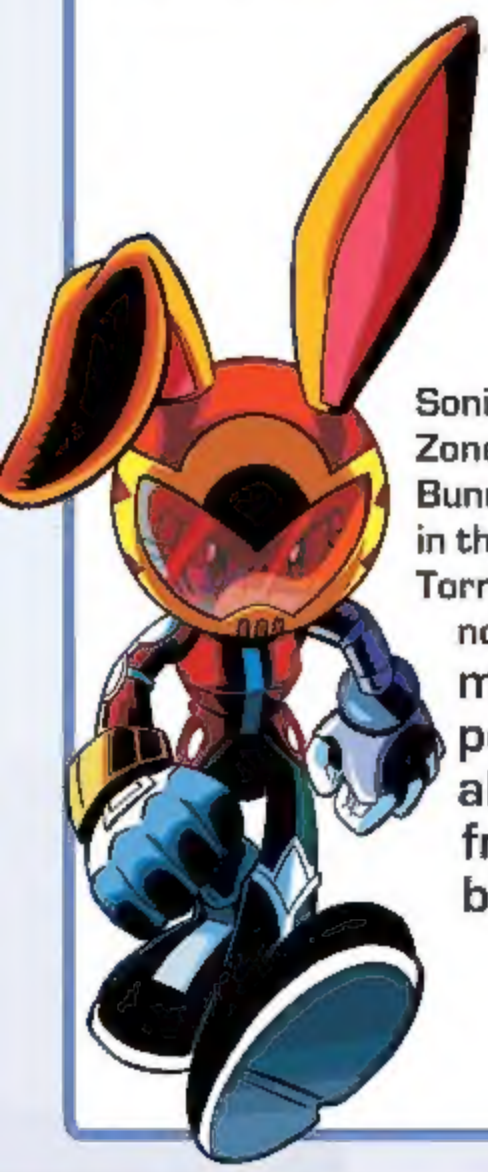
Welcome to Sonic's comic book adventures – A world unique & beyond what you know from the SEGA games! Where Sonic and his friends work to save the world from the forces of evil!

SONIC THE HEDGEHOG™

PREVIOUSLY...

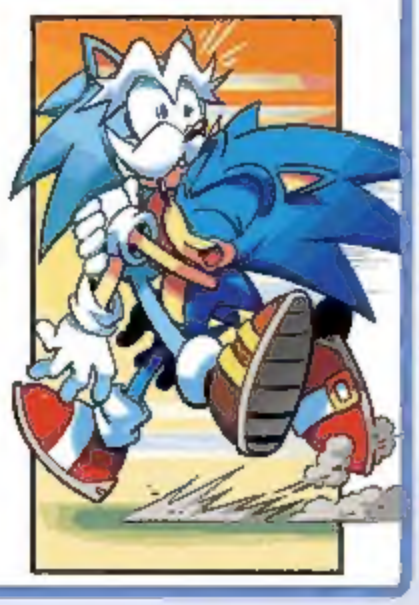
Sonic & Tails are on "Rabbot" Reconnaissance!

After foiling Dr. Eggman's plans, both Sonic and Eggman woke up back in their home world, but with new memories – and a new past, altered by the reality-warping Genesis Wave!



The artificial intelligence known as Nicole holds the key to what has happened, and by interacting with the heroic Freedom Fighters she has begun to "defragment" this new world. Tails, Rotor the Walrus and Antoine D'Coolette have all been revitalized with more on the way!

Sonic and Tails are now headed to Metropolis Zone to find their fellow Freedom Fighter, Bunnie "Rabbot" D'Coolette. As they fly high in the sky aboard the Tornado, neither Sonic nor Tails know of the monstrous power that is about to emerge from the world below...



WHO'S WHO

SONIC THE HEDGEHOG
FASTEST THING ALIVE

MILES "TAILS" PROWER
SONIC'S BEST BUD

DR. EGGMAN
SONIC'S MAD SCIENTIST NEMESIS

???

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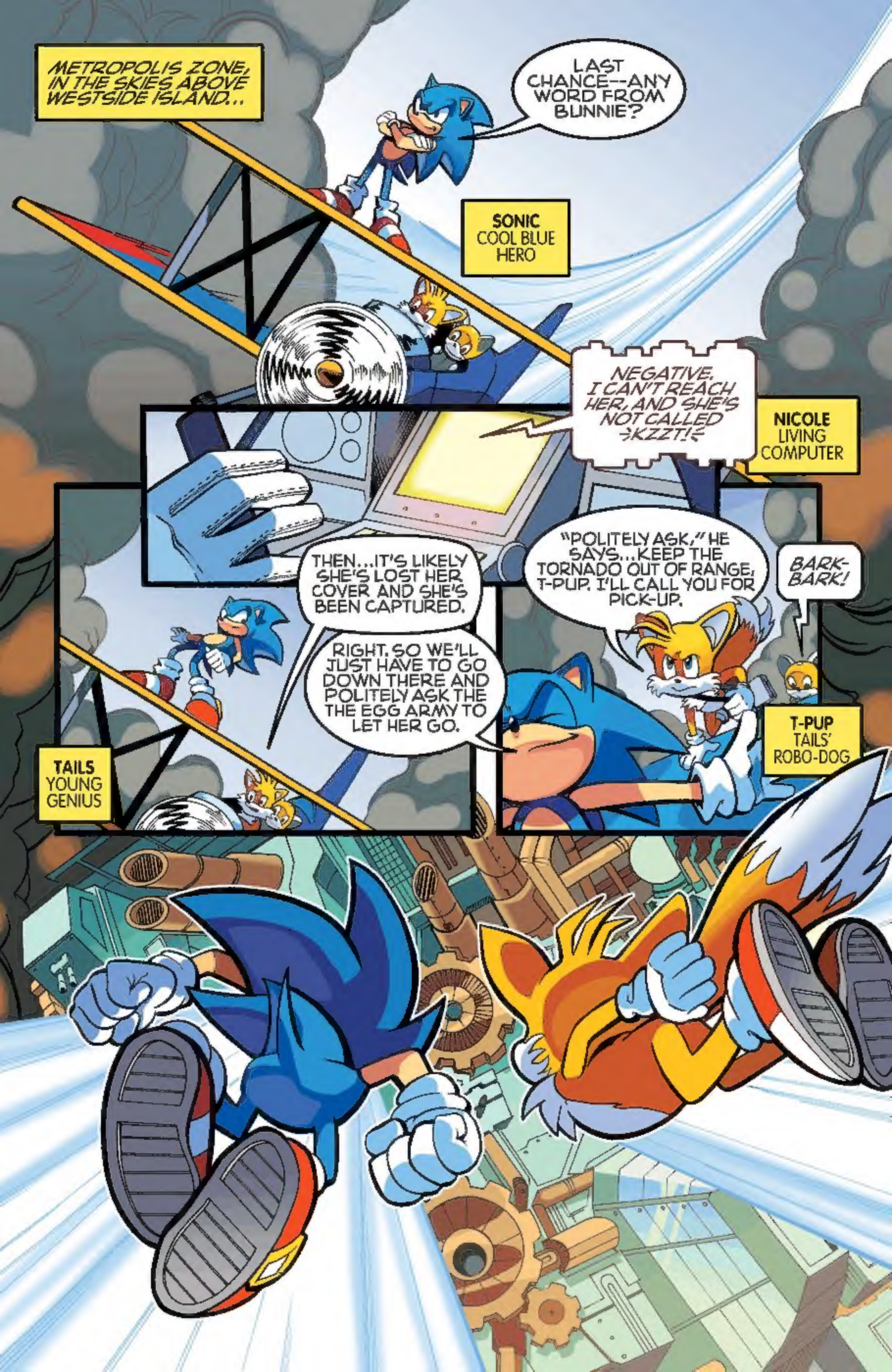
METROPOLIS ZONE, IN THE SKIES ABOVE WESTSIDE ISLAND...
LAST CHANCE--ANY WORD FROM BUNNIE?
SONIC COOL BLUE HERO
NEGATIVE. I CAN'T REACH HER, AND SHE'S NOT CALLED ≠KZZT!≠
NICOLE LIVING COMPUTER
THEN...IT'S LIKELY SHE'S LOST HER COVER AND SHE'S BEEN CAPTURED.
RIGHT. SO WE'LL JUST HAVE TO GO DOWN THERE AND POLITELY ASK THE THE EGG ARMY TO LET HER GO.
TAILS YOUNG GENIUS
"POLITELY ASK," HE SAYS...KEEP THE TORNADO OUT OF RANGE, T-PUP. I'LL CALL YOU FOR PICK-UP.
BARK-BARK!
T-PUP TAILS' ROBO-DOG

Writer: IAN FLYNN
Pencils: JERRY GAYLORD • Inks: KENT ARCHER
Colors: MATT HERMS • Letters: JOHN WORKMAN
Cover by BEN BATES • Variant Cover by TYLER CAPPS
with MATT HERMS

Assistant Editor: VINCENT LOVALLO
Editor/Executive Director of Editorial: PAUL KAMINSKI
Editor-in-Chief: VICTOR GORELICK • President: MIKE PELLERITO
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at SEGA Licensing

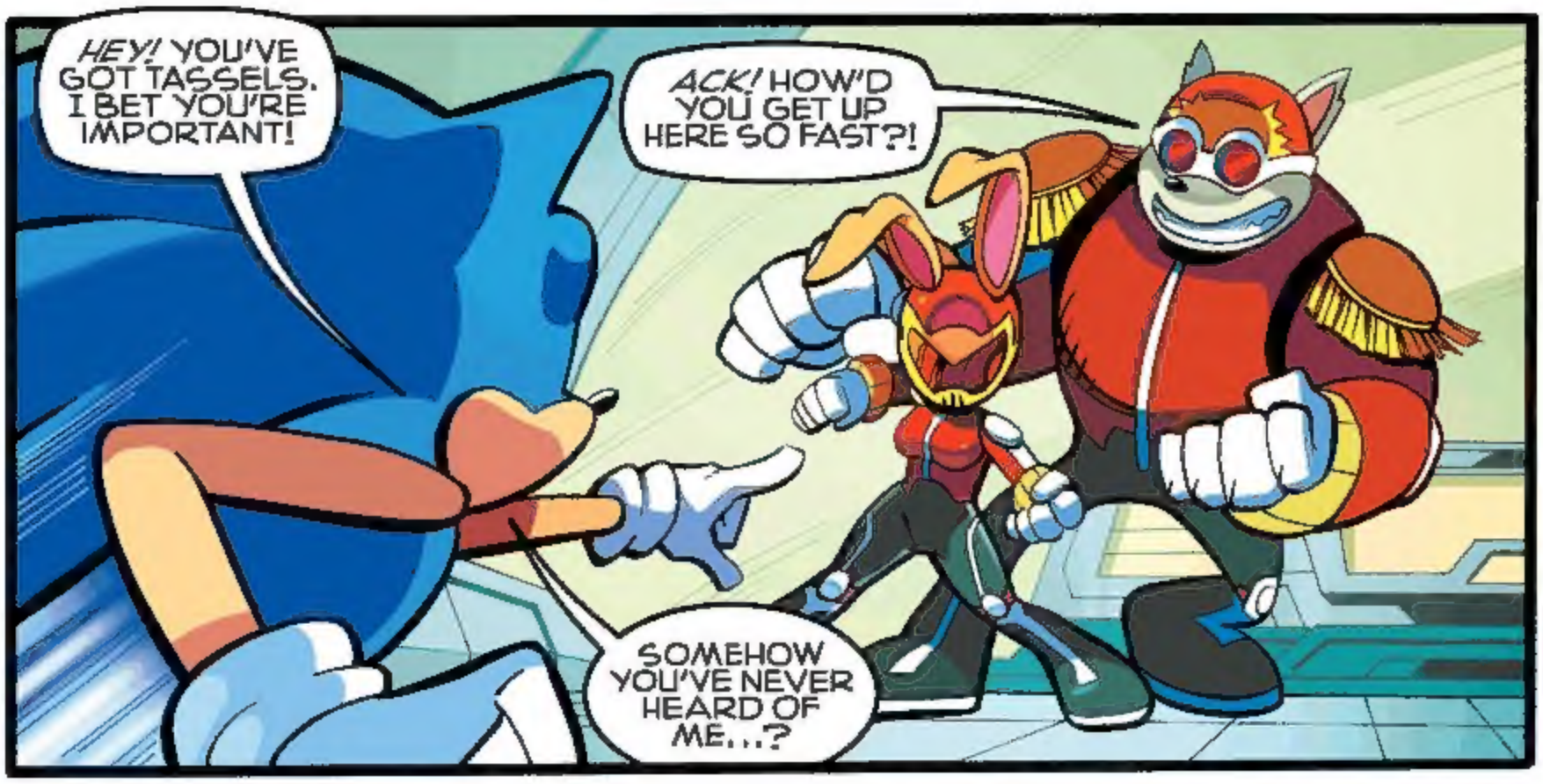
NO TIME FOR MESSING AROUND. WE'VE GOT TO GET STRAIGHT TO THE COMMAND TOWER...

VREEEE!

...AND FIND OUT WHERE SHE'S BEING HELD AND *YADDA YADDA YADDA*. I'VE DONE THIS HERO THING ENOUGH TIMES TO KNOW THE DRILL.

HOW MANY TIMES HAVE I DONE THIS?

TWO WORLDS, TWO TIME-LINES... AND IT'S GETTING HARD TO KEEP THEM SEPARATE IN MY HEAD...
GOTTA ROLL WITH IT FOR NOW, THO'. ONCE I'VE GOT MY FRIENDS TOGETHER, WE CAN FIGURE OUT THE REST.


HEY! YOU'VE GOT TASSELS. I BET YOU'RE IMPORTANT!
ACK! HOW'D YOU GET UP HERE SO FAST?!
SOMEHOW YOU'VE NEVER HEARD OF ME...?

LOCK US DOWN! THEY'RE NOT ESCAPING!

SHAKOOM!

OKAY, DUDE? I DON'T LIKE WALLOPING EGG SOLDIERS LIKE YOU. YOU'RE IN A TOUGH SPOT--I GET THAT. BUT WE'RE HERE TO RESCUE A FRIEND OF OURS, AND WE ALL KNOW HOW THIS IS GOING TO END. SO WORK WITH ME ON THIS, MAN.

YOU CAN'T INTIMIDATE ME! I TAKE ORDERS FROM DR. EGGMAN!
UH-HUH. "OF COURSE, DOCTOR! YOU WANT FRIES WITH THAT?"
GRRR-- ATTACK!

FOOM!
I--I... KNEW... THERE... WAS A... SPY...
THIS IS SCARLETT.
WE'VE GOT SONIC THE HEDGEHOG SEALED IN THE COMMAND ROOM. DO NOT OPEN THE DOOR! GET EVERYONE ARMED AND IN POSITION FIRST!
NOW THEN...
...HOWDY, BOYS. FEELS LIKE IT'S BEEN AGES.
BUNNIE D'COOLETTE THE RABBOT

YOU'RE ALL RIGHT!
SHO' AM. AH TAKE IT THIS WAS *YOUR* IDEA FOR A RESCUE? CHARGE ON IN, GET LOCKED IN A ROOM...
...AND END UP SUR-ROUNDED?
HEY, WE FOUND YOU, DIDN'T WE? SO FAR MY PLAN'S GOING *PERFECTLY.*

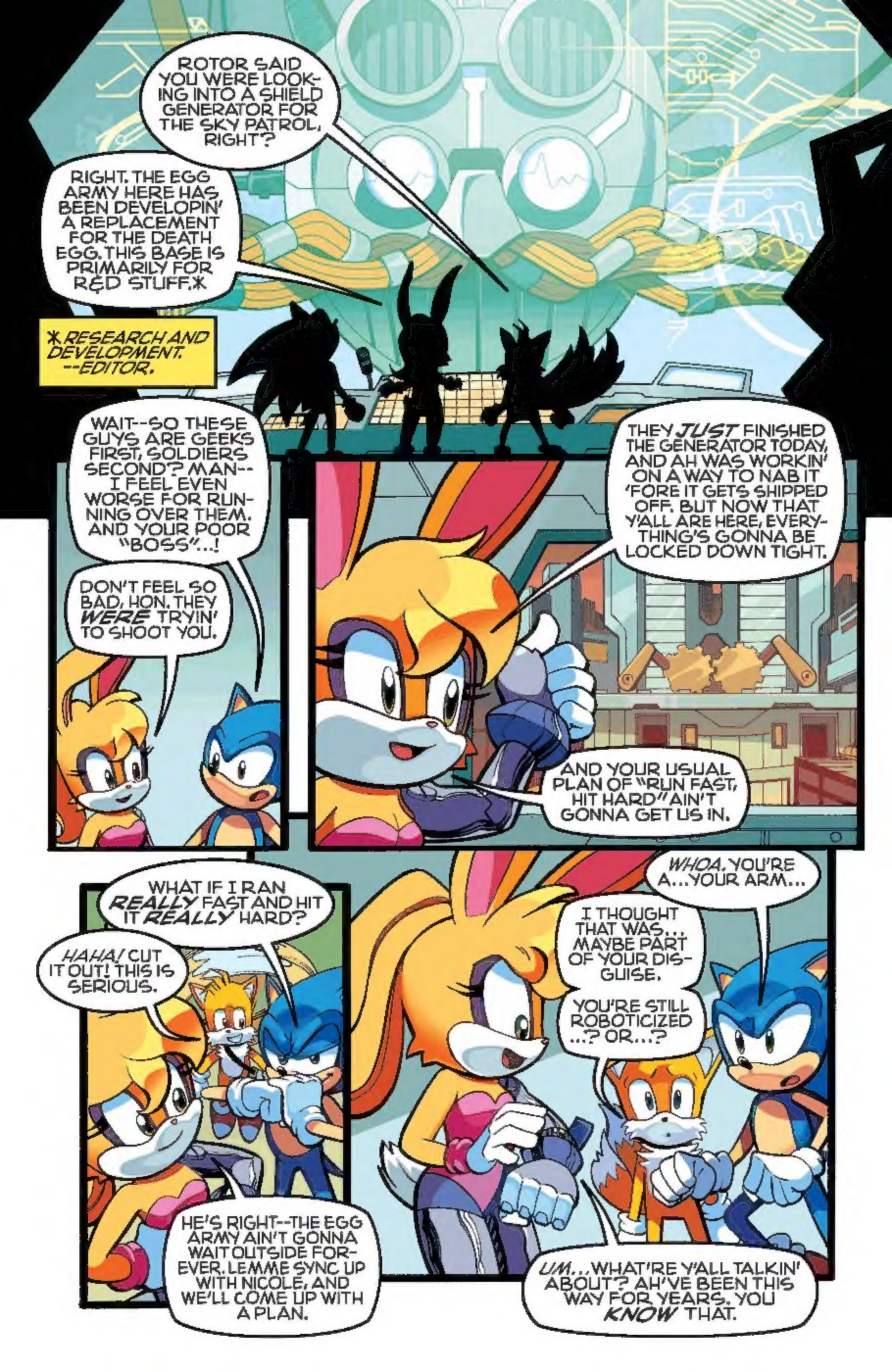
YOU HADN'T REPORTED IN FOR SO LONG, WE THOUGHT YOU *MUST* HAVE BEEN CAUGHT. AND NOW... WE'VE BLOWN YOUR COVER...
DON'T WORRY YOURSELF NONE.
THIS IS PARTLY MY FAULT, TOO.

THIS GUY WAS GETTIN' SUSPICIOUS, SO I HAD TO GO DEEPER UNDER COVER. *ALL* OUTGOIN' TRANSMISSIONS WERE CLOSELY MON-ITORED. AH KNEW AH WAS PAST DUE CHECKIN' IN, BUT AH WAS SO CLOSE TO GETTIN' WHAT I CAME HERE FOR.

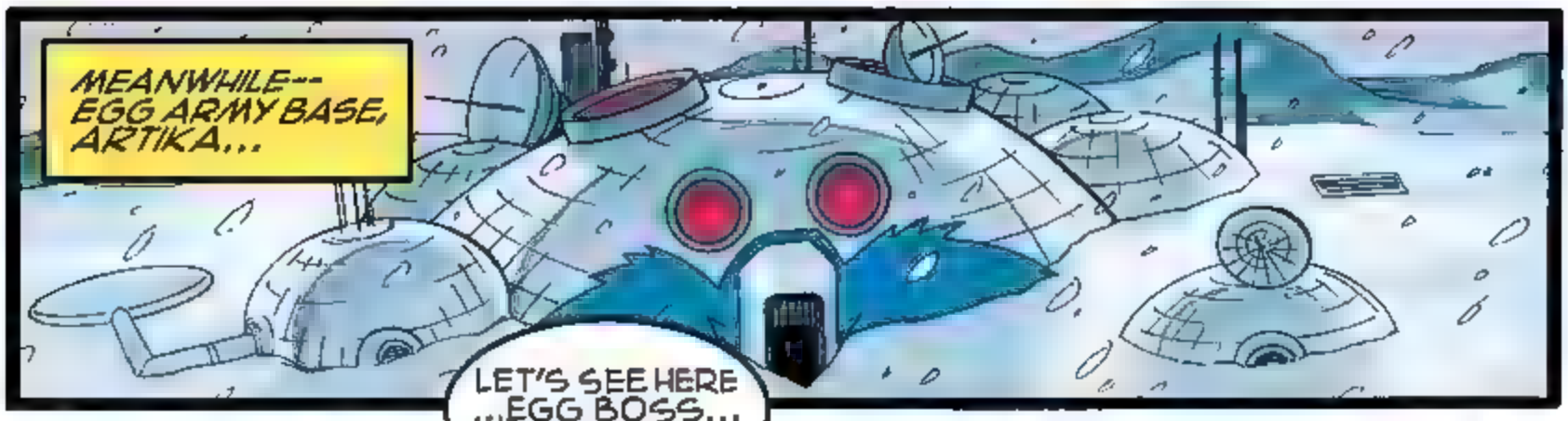
BUT WHAT'S DONE IS DONE.
AH BOUGHT US A LI'L BIT OF TIME.
LEMME GET OUT OF THIS AWFUL UNIFORM. HOW'S EVERYBODY ELSE?
'TWAN'S GOOD. HE'S GETTING UNCLE CHUCK TO SPAGONIA.*
AND ROTOR'S ALMOST GOT THE SKY PATROL UP AND RUNNING! * I'LL LET NICOLE SPEAK FOR HERSELF.
*SEE STH#253-254.

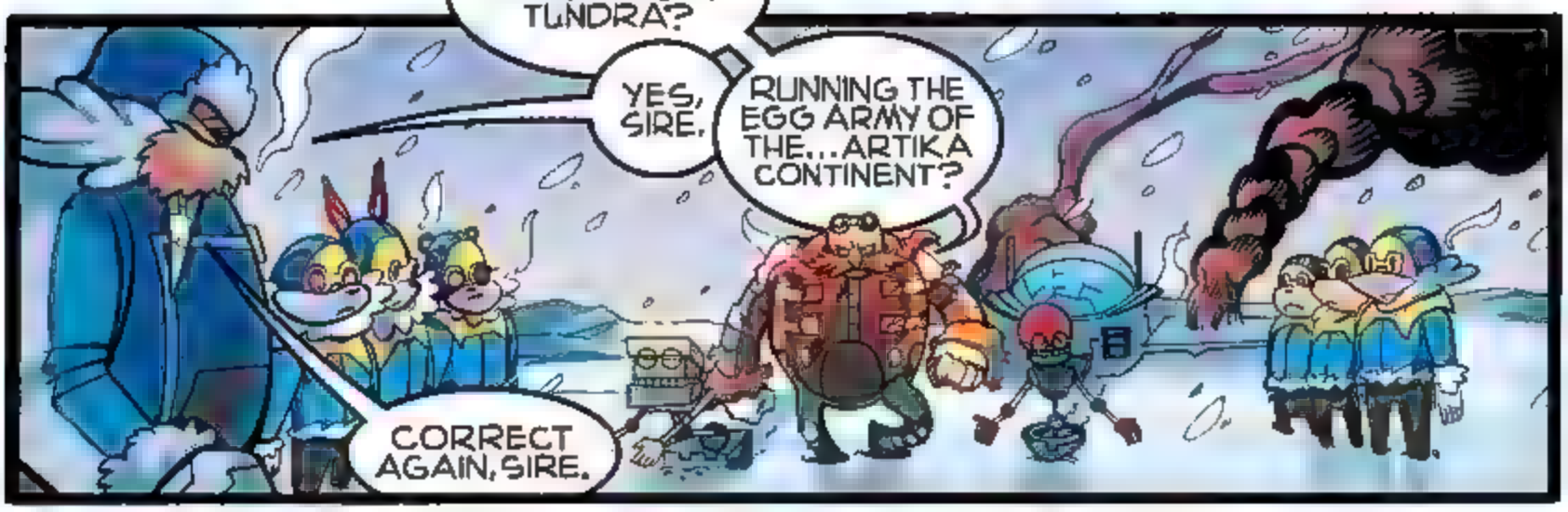
I'M STILL FUNCTIONING FOR THE MOST ÷KZZT!÷
AW, DARLIN', WHAT HAPPENED TO YOU?
LONG STORY, ÷KZZT!÷

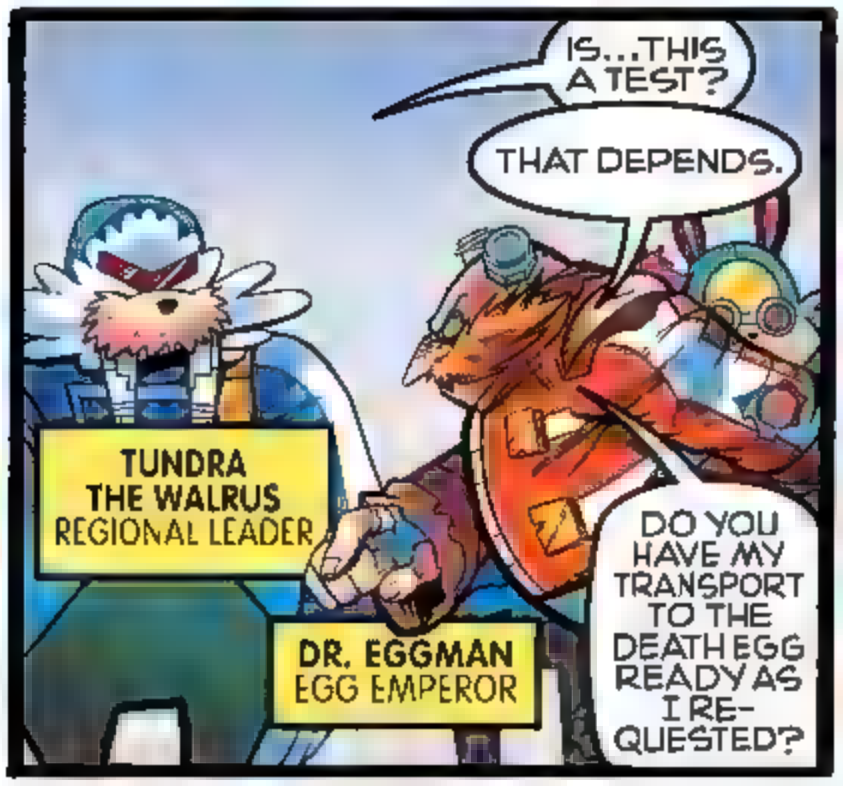
SALLY'S STILL ON HER MISSION...
AH DON'T LIKE SAL LINGERIN' ON THE DEATH EGG.
...AND WE'VE LOST TRACK OF AMY.
AH LIKE THAT EVEN LESS. WE NEED TO WRAP THINGS UP HERE AND CHECK UP ON 'EM.

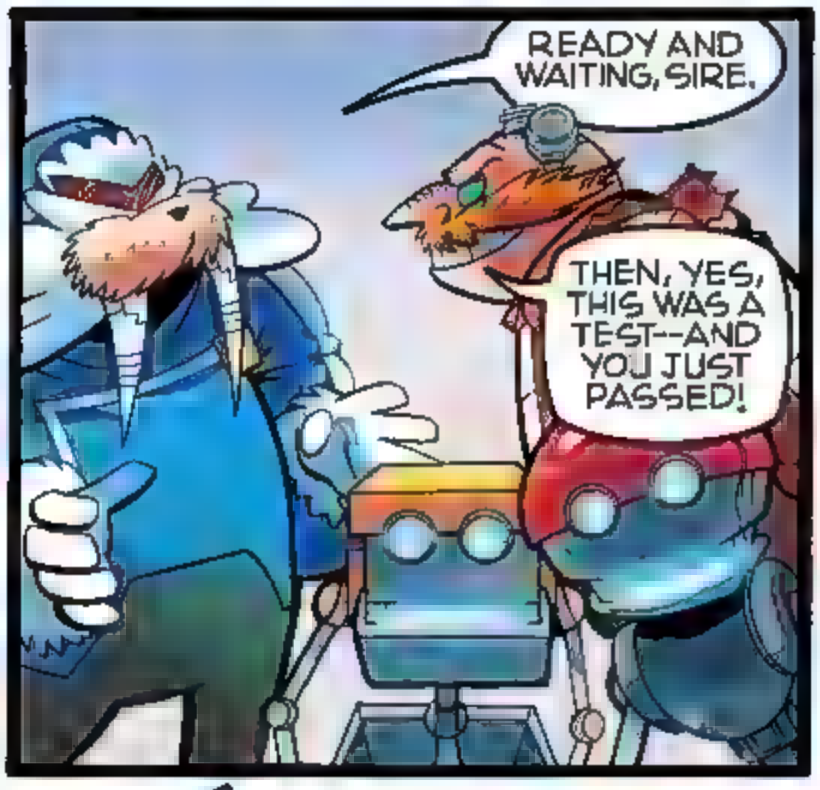

ROTOR SAID YOU WERE LOOKING INTO A SHIELD GENERATOR FOR THE SKY PATROL, RIGHT?
RIGHT. THE EGG ARMY HERE HAS BEEN DEVELOPIN' A REPLACEMENT FOR THE DEATH EGG. THIS BASE IS PRIMARILY FOR R&D STUFF.*
*RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT. --EDITOR.
WAIT--SO THESE GUYS ARE GEEKS FIRST, SOLDIERS SECOND? MAN--I FEEL EVEN WORSE FOR RUNNING OVER THEM. AND YOUR POOR "BOSS"...!
DON'T FEEL SO BAD, HON. THEY WERE TRYIN' TO SHOOT YOU.
THEY JUST FINISHED THE GENERATOR TODAY, AND AH WAS WORKIN' ON A WAY TO NAB IT 'FORE IT GETS SHIPPED OFF. BUT NOW THAT Y'ALL ARE HERE, EVERYTHING'S GONNA BE LOCKED DOWN TIGHT.
AND YOUR USUAL PLAN OF "RUN FAST, HIT HARD" AIN'T GONNA GET US IN.
WHAT IF I RAN REALLY FAST AND HIT IT REALLY HARD?
HAHA! CUT IT OUT! THIS IS SERIOUS.
HE'S RIGHT--THE EGG ARMY AIN'T GONNA WAIT OUTSIDE FOREVER. LEMME SYNC UP WITH NICOLE, AND WE'LL COME UP WITH A PLAN.
WHOA. YOU'RE A...YOUR ARM...
I THOUGHT THAT WAS... MAYBE PART OF YOUR DISGUISE.
YOU'RE STILL ROBOTICIZED ...? OR...?
UM...WHAT'RE Y'ALL TALKIN' ABOUT? AH'VE BEEN THIS WAY FOR YEARS. YOU KNOW THAT.

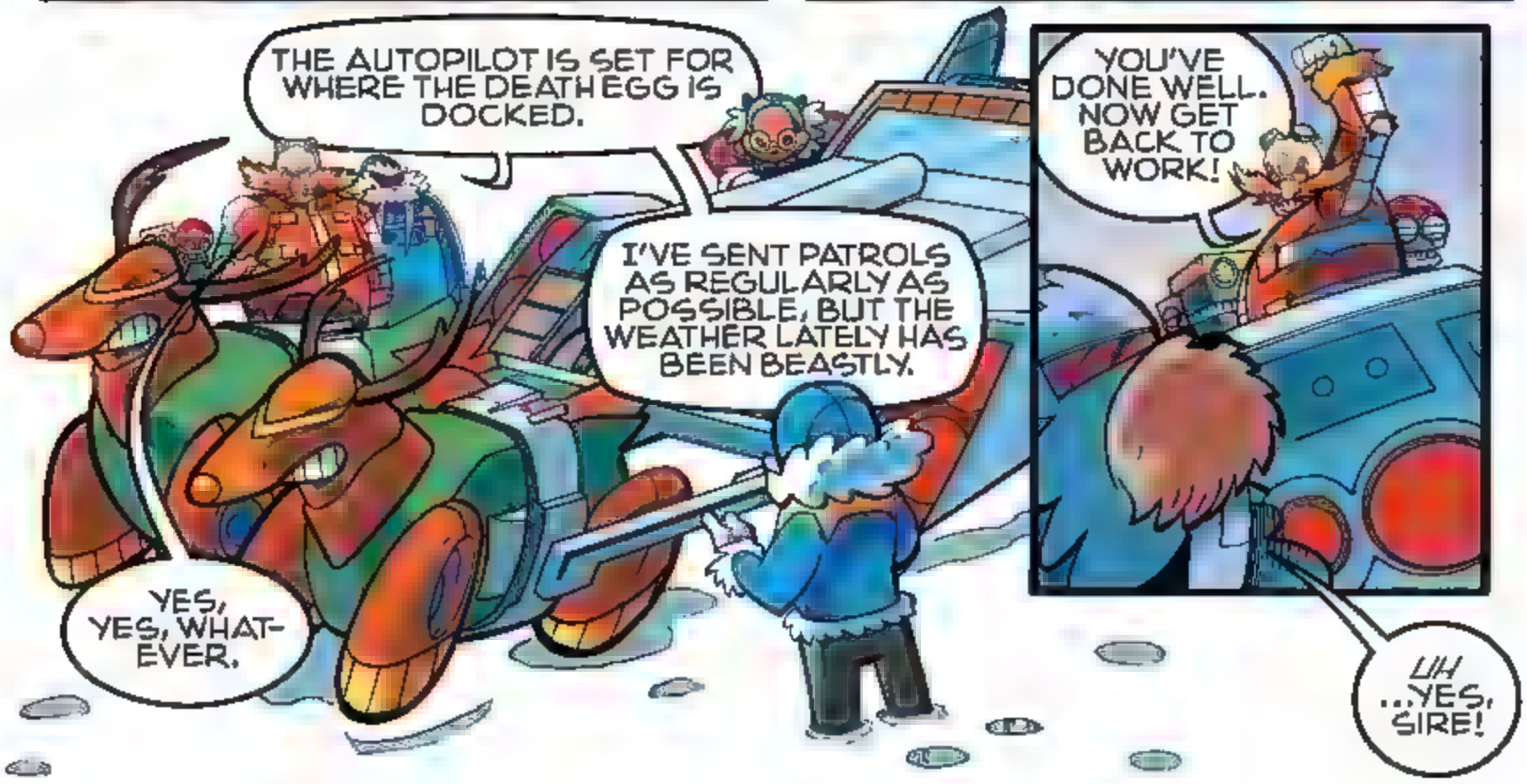
WAIT. I REMEMBER NOW-- CHUCK SAVED HER LIFE BACK WHEN EGGMAN FIRST ATTACKED. Y'KNOW...IN THIS REALITY.
I REMEMBER, TOO...I THINK.
WE STILL NEED BUNNIE TO RESTORE NICOLE'S SYSTEMS...
I HIGHLY SUGGEST WE DO IT LATER, AFTER WE'RE OUT OF HARM'S-, KZZT!
I AGREE.
COMPLETING THE CIRCUIT WITH NICOLE REALLY MESSES WITH YOUR HEAD, AND WE'RE IN THE MIDDLE OF ENEMY TERRITORY RIGHT NOW.
HEY. AH'M STANDIN' RIGHT HERE. WHAT ARE Y'ALL BEIN' SO SECRETIVE ABOUT--?
CLANG
WE'RE READY TO MOVE ON THE HEDGEHOG. UN-LOCK THE DOORS!
SONIC TOOK HIM DOWN...AND THE DOOR CONTROLS! STAND BY WHILE AH...
UHH... NEGATIVE! HE'S TOO STRONG!
WHERE'S THE FORE-MAN?
YOU CAN'T HANDLE HIM ON YOUR OWN! WE'RE COMING IN!
SO...ABOUT THAT PLAN?


MEANWHILE--
EGG ARMY BASE,
ARTIKA...
LET'S SEE HERE ...EGG BOSS... TUNDRA?


YES, SIRE.
RUNNING THE EGG ARMY OF THE...ARTIKA CONTINENT?
CORRECT AGAIN, SIRE.


IS...THIS A TEST?
THAT DEPENDS.
TUNDRA THE WALRUS
REGIONAL LEADER
DR. EGGMAN
EGG EMPEROR
DO YOU HAVE MY TRANSPORT TO THE DEATH EGG READY AS I RE-QUESTED?


READY AND WAITING, SIRE.
THEN, YES, THIS WAS A TEST--AND YOU JUST PASSED!


THE AUTOPILOT IS SET FOR WHERE THE DEATH EGG IS DOCKED.
YES, YES, WHAT-EVER.
I'VE SENT PATROLS AS REGULARLY AS POSSIBLE, BUT THE WEATHER LATELY HAS BEEN BEASTLY.
YOU'VE DONE WELL. NOW GET BACK TO WORK!
UH ...YES, SIRE!

AHH... SO CLOSE TO HOME, GLORIOUS, DEADLY HOME.

YOU SEEMED AWFUL FAMILIAR WITH THAT EGG BOSS, SIR.

CUBOT
FAJLTY VOICE CHIP

ORBOT
SASSY LACKEY

JA, ESPECIALLY FIR SOMEONE FRIM A DEEF-RINT TIMELINE.

A TIMELINE TO WHICH WE'RE ADJUSTING... WHETHER WE WANT TO OR NOT. I SUSPECT THAT BEFORE LONG, THIS NEW REALITY-- *MY* NEW HISTORY-- WILL TAKE PERMANENT HOLD.

YUMPIN' YIMMINEY! IS THAT GONNA HIPPEN TO US, TOO?

YOU WERE AT THE EPICENTER OF THE REALITY SHIFT WITH ME, SO I'D ASSUME SO. YOUR PROGRAMMING MAY BE REWRITING ITSELF AS WE SPEAK.

SO THAT'S WHY YOU'VE BEEN PUSHING SO HARD TO GET HOME, FIGURING OUT THESE DUAL MEMORIES MUST BE TOUGH.

>SIGH< I WONDER IF MY NEW LIFE WILL HAVE BEEN AS "GLAMOROUS" AS THE OLD ONE...

PLEASE. *MY* BRILLIANT MIND CAN HANDLE IT ALL FINE. NO... WHAT CONCERNS ME ARE THE READINGS I GLIMPSED IN EFRYKA.* IT MAY ALREADY BE TOO LATE...

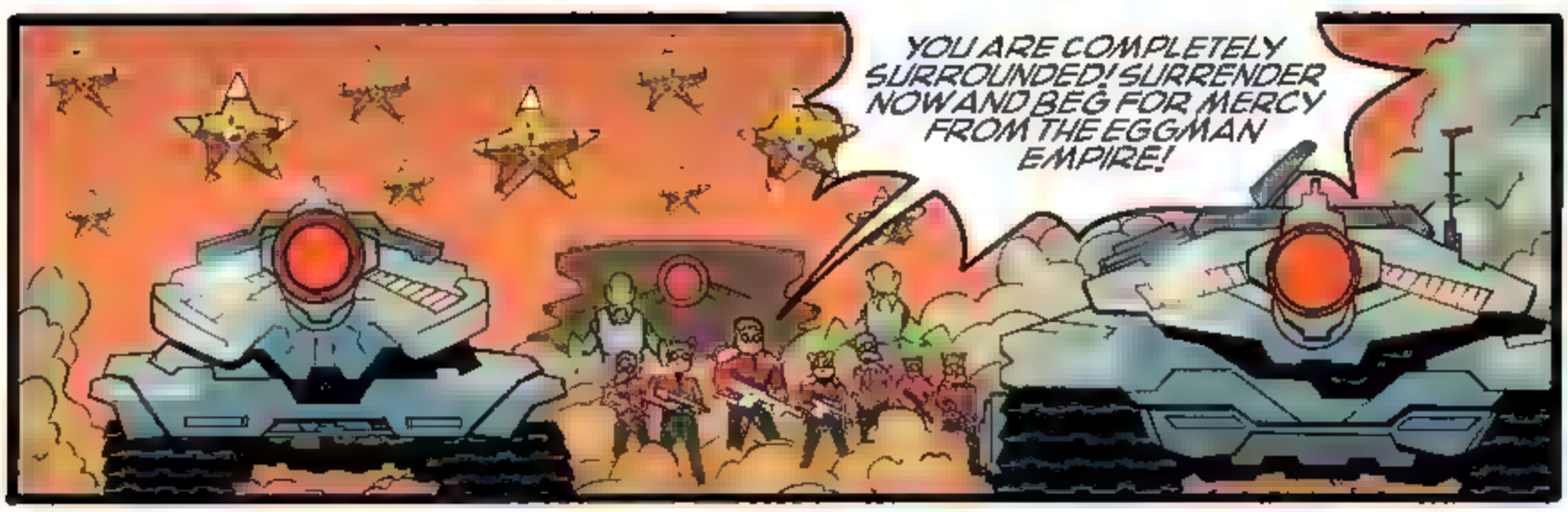
*STH#253.

BACK IN METROPOLIS ZONE...
CREEEEAKK
WHAT ARE YOU DOING?!
SIR! Y-YOU'RE OKAY! WE'RE ABOUT TO OPEN THE DOOR AND...
FORGET THE COMMAND ROOM-- WE'RE LOCKED DOWN! >KZZT< GET THE HEDGEHOG!
"HE'S ALREADY OUTSIDE...
...AND HEADING FOR THE RESEARCH VAULT!"
WHAM!
YOU HEARD THE FOREMAN! FORGET THE DOOR! MOVE IT!
SEE? "RUN FAST" IS ALWAYS PART OF THE PLAN.
AH AIN'T RUNNIN' --AH'M FLYIN'!
SAME DIFFERENCE!

PING!
PING!
VREEEE!
BLAM!
WHOA!
WHAM!
VREEEE!
THANKS, SUGAH-HOG! AS FOR THE CLAW...
...I THINK I CAN FIND A USE FOR IT!
WHAM!
BOOM!
VREEEEE!
OUF!

THIS IS A DOOR?
YUP. SEE WHY AH SAID WE COULDN'T JUST BUST OUR WAY IN?
EH, I'VE SPIN-DASHED BIGGER.
OH, YOU HAVE NOT!

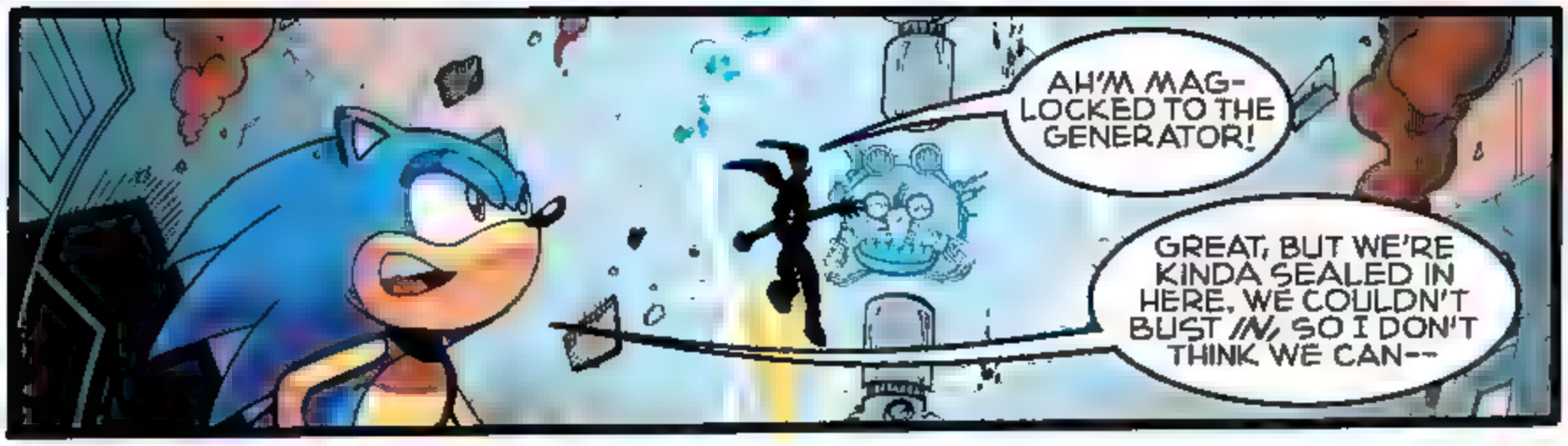
HALT!


YOU ARE COMPLETELY SURROUNDED! SURRENDER NOW AND BEG FOR MERCY FROM THE EGGMAN EMPIRE!

GOODNESS! WHEN YOU PUT IT THAT WAY, I GUESS WE HAVE NO CHOICE!
WE'RE IN POSITION, SUGAR.

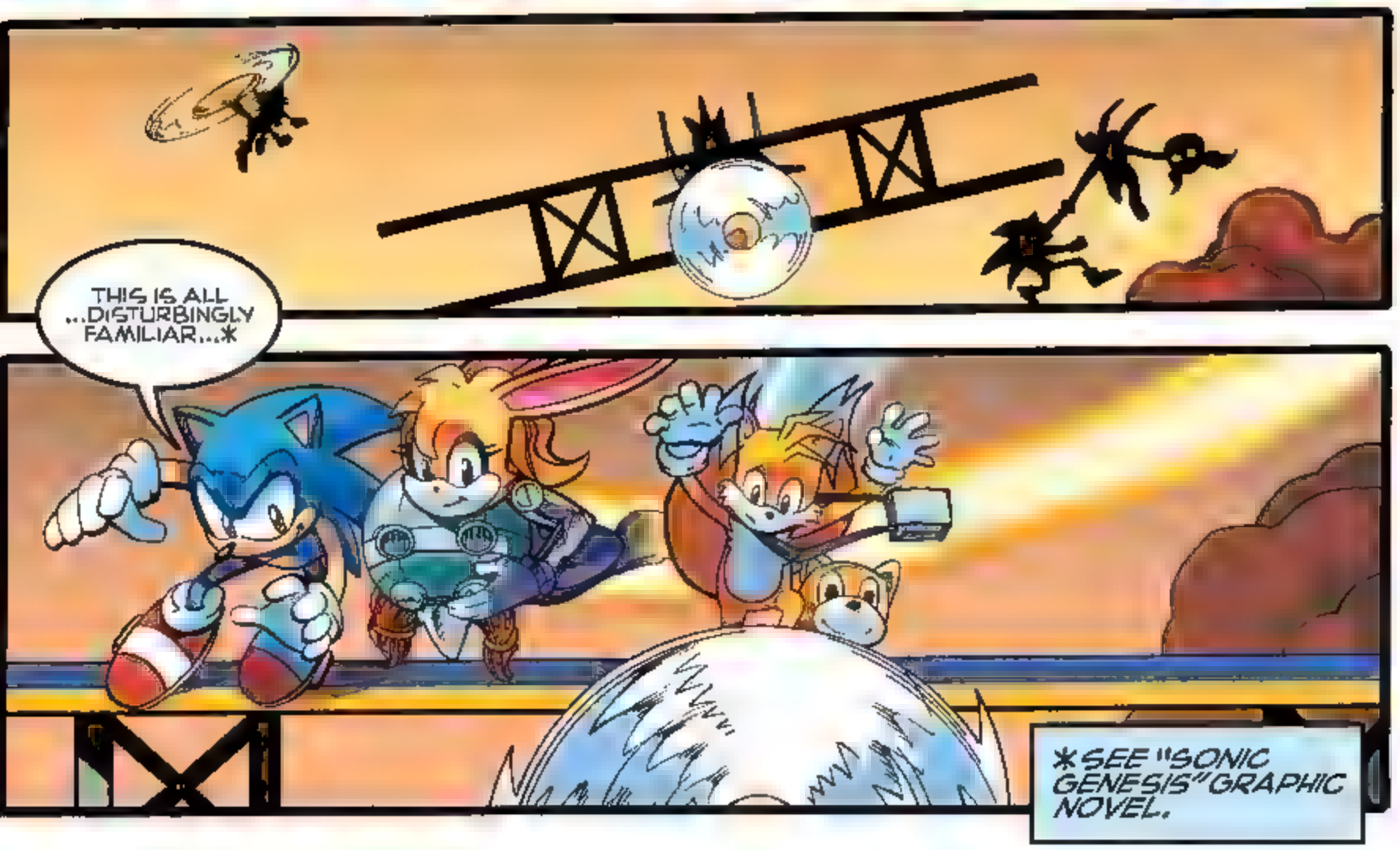
RRRUMBLE!!!

SIR! THE VAULT DOORS --?!
ARE CLOSED! ÷KZZT!÷
N-NO, SIR, THEY'RE OPENING!
ARE YOU SURE? ÷KZZT÷ CHECK AGAIN.
HAHA! HANG ON, GUYS, I'LL OPEN THE CEILING ACCESS FOR YOUR ESCAPE, AND WE'LL--
TAILS? IT'S BUNNIE! WHAT IN TARNATION'S GOIN' ON?!
RRRUMBLE!!!
RRRGH! IT'S ANOTHER EARTHQUAKE! I CAN'T--
JUST GO ON! WE'LL MEET'CHA AT THE TORNADO!
EMERGENCY! EMERGENCY! ALL EGG SOLDIERS TO YOUR SECURE SHELTERS! EMERGEN-- ÷SHVK!÷


AH'M MAG-LOCKED TO THE GENERATOR!
GREAT, BUT WE'RE KINDA SEALED IN HERE. WE COULDN'T BUST IN, SO I DON'T THINK WE CAN--

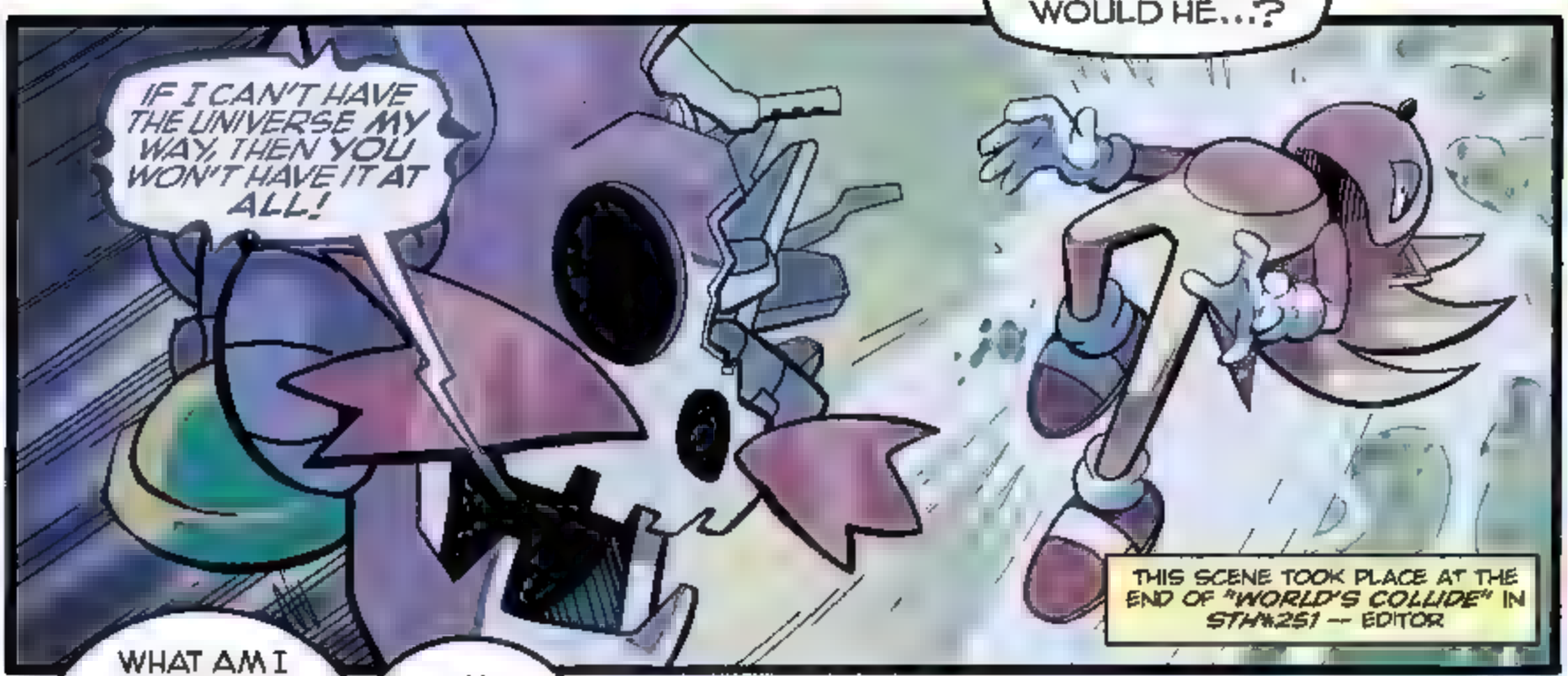
CRASH!

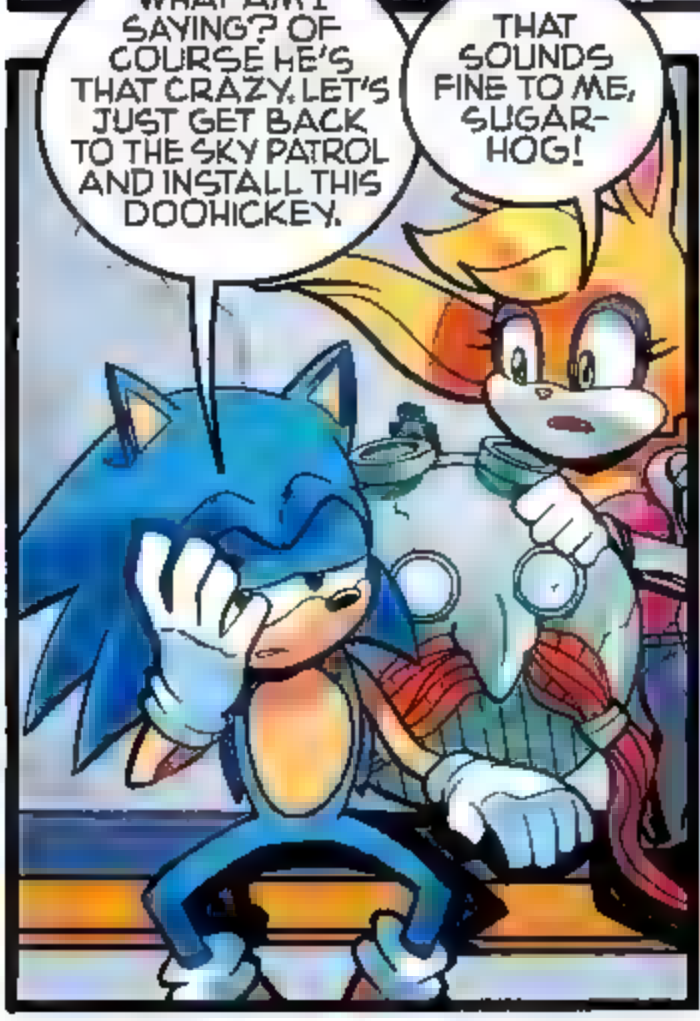
NEVER MIND! LOOKS LIKE THESE QUAKES ARE USEFUL FOR A CHANGE. GUN IT!
WOOOOSH


THIS IS ALL ...DISTURBINGLY FAMILIAR...*
*SEE "SONIC GENESIS" GRAPHIC NOVEL.

WHAT WAS THAT?
I SAID...
...THIS IS LIKE THE QUAKES IN WOOD ZONE. CHUCK THOUGHT EGGMAN WAS BEHIND IT, BUT...

EGGMAN? AH DON'T THINK SO... RECENTLY THERE'D BEEN A LOT OF REPORTS COMIN' IN FROM OTHER EGG ARMY BASES 'BOUT STUFF LIKE THIS.
HE WOULDN'T BE CRAZY ENOUGH TO ENDANGER HIS OWN BASES, WOULD HE...?


IF I CAN'T HAVE THE UNIVERSE MY WAY, THEN YOU WON'T HAVE IT AT ALL!
THIS SCENE TOOK PLACE AT THE END OF "WORLD'S COLLIDE" IN STH#251 -- EDITOR


WHAT AM I SAYING? OF COURSE HE'S THAT CRAZY. LET'S JUST GET BACK TO THE SKY PATROL AND INSTALL THIS DOOHICKEY.
THAT SOUNDS FINE TO ME, SUGAR-HOG!

ATTENTION-- ALL PERSONNEL! BEGIN CLEAN-UP PROCEDURES!

MUCH LATER-- ABOARD THE SKY PATROL...

SUGAR-TWAN! AH THOUGHT YOU WERE HEADED TO SPAGONIA?

OUI. I ESCORTED CHUCK AND RETURNED HERE *TOUT DE SUITE.* I ≥*YAWN*≤ NEEDED TO SEE YOU AGAIN.

YOU WERE *ALMOST* ROMANTIC UP UNTIL THAT YAWN.

I WAS HAVING ZE ROUGH FLIGHT HERE.

MINE WAS ROUGHER.

NOW, THEN-- WE'RE HERE, ALL SAFE 'N' SOUND. WHAT WERE Y'ALL WHISPERING ABOUT BACK IN METROPOLIS ZONE?

IT'S A LONG STORY, AND THERE'S NO EASY WAY TO PREPARE ANY-ONE FOR IT, Y'SEE...

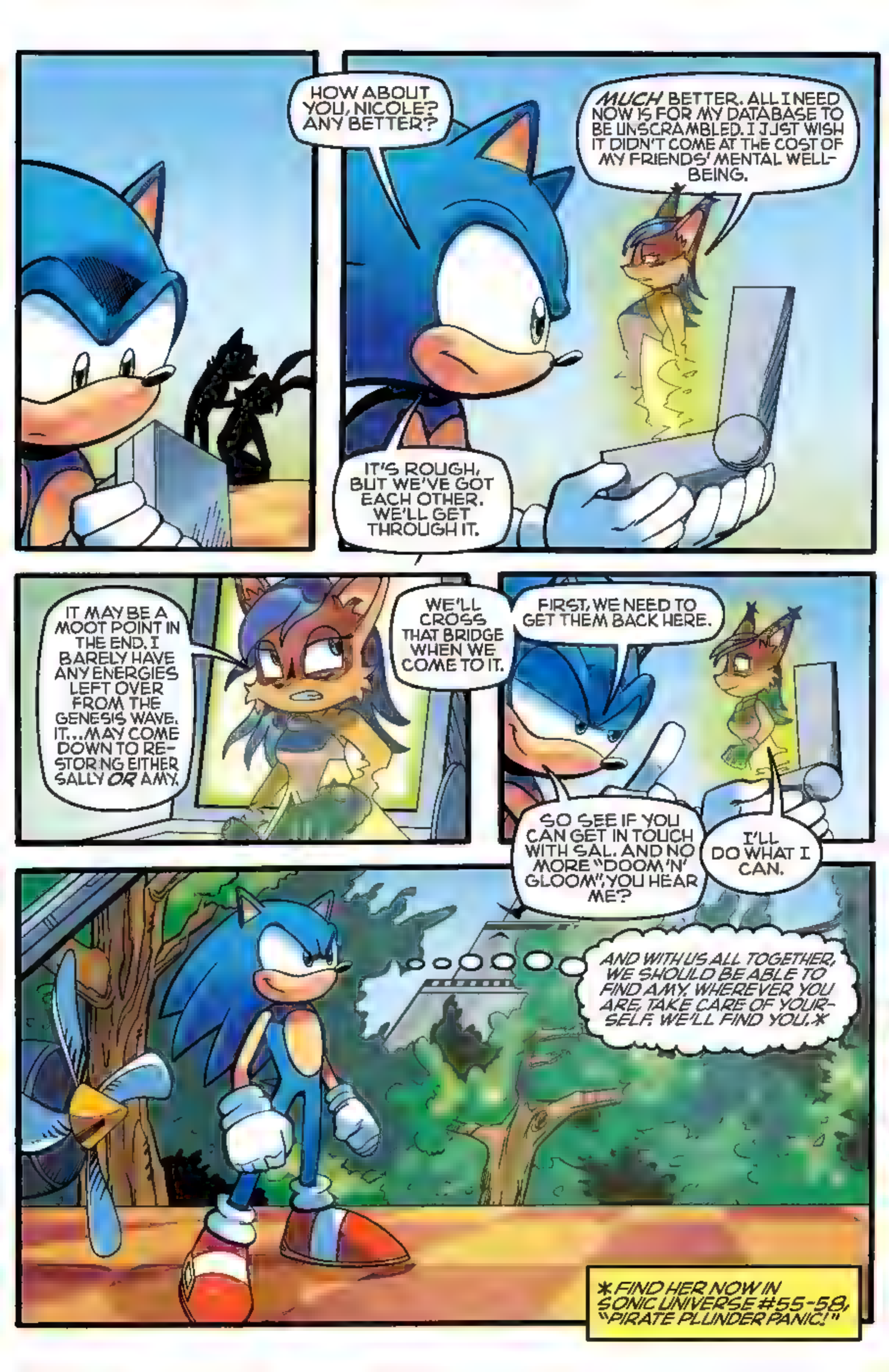
THIS IS ALSO THE REASON I AM COMING HERE QUICKLY. I SHOULD BE HELPING HER THROUGH THIS.

YOU'RE ABSOLUTELY RIGHT, HERE.

I...I'LL GET THE GENERATOR TO ROTOR...

TAKE NICOLE, *MON AMOUR,* KNOW THAT I AM HERE.

ALL RIGHT. THIS BETTER EXPLAIN WHY Y'ALL ARE ACTIN' SO WEIRD.


HOW ABOUT YOU, NICOLE? ANY BETTER?
MUCH BETTER. ALL I NEED NOW IS FOR MY DATABASE TO BE UNSCRAMBLED. I JUST WISH IT DIDN'T COME AT THE COST OF MY FRIENDS' MENTAL WELL-BEING.
IT'S ROUGH, BUT WE'VE GOT EACH OTHER. WE'LL GET THROUGH IT.
IT MAY BE A MOOT POINT IN THE END. I BARELY HAVE ANY ENERGIES LEFT OVER FROM THE GENESIS WAVE. IT...MAY COME DOWN TO RE-STORING EITHER SALLY OR AMY.
WE'LL CROSS THAT BRIDGE WHEN WE COME TO IT.
FIRST, WE NEED TO GET THEM BACK HERE.
SO SEE IF YOU CAN GET IN TOUCH WITH SAL. AND NO MORE "DOOM 'N' GLOOM", YOU HEAR ME?
I'LL DO WHAT I CAN.
AND WITH US ALL TOGETHER, WE SHOULD BE ABLE TO FIND AMY. WHEREVER YOU ARE, TAKE CARE OF YOUR-SELF. WE'LL FIND YOU.*
*FIND HER NOW IN SONIC UNIVERSE #55-58, "PIRATE PLUNDER PANIC!"

ABOARD THE DEATH EGG...

AHH...FRESH CLOTHES, A GOOD NIGHT'S SLEEP, AND MY FLYING MECHANICAL EGG OF DOOM ABOUT TO COME BACK ONLINE! IT ALMOST BRINGS A TEAR TO MY EYE!

WHAT'S THE GOOD NEWS, MY LOYAL LACKEY?

NONE. I DO HAVE **BAD** NEWS IN STOCK, IF YOU'RE INTERESTED.

GRRR ...WHAT NOW?

METROPOLIS ZONE REPORTS MASSIVE DAMAGE DUE TO AN EARTHQUAKE, AND THAT THE SHIELD GENERATOR YOU COMMISSIONED WAS STOLEN BY THE FREEDOM FIGHTERS.

OF ALL THE-- ANYTHING ELSE ?!

YES, BOSS. IT SEEMS AN ESCAPE POD LAUNCHED A FEW HOURS BEFORE WE ARRIVED. SECURITY MANAGED TO CATCH THIS IMAGE.

AWW...SHE NIT A ROBOT NO MIR? AND BEFIR YOU COULD DO ANYTHING INTERESTING WITH HIR...

?!

TRACK THAT POD. SEND METAL SONIC.

SONIC DOESN'T GET TO SEE HER AGAIN --ALIVE.

SALLY'S ON THE **RUN**-- BUT WILL SHE **SURVIVE** LONG ENOUGH TO BE REUNITED WITH **SONIC?** WHEN WILL **AMY ROSE RETURN?** AND WHAT'S GOING ON WITH THE **PLANET?** ALL THIS COMES TO AN **EXPLOSIVE CONCLUSION** NEXT TIME!

SONIC-GRAMS FAN ART

Marisol G. sent to Sonic@ArchieComics.com

Kobe Y. sent to Sonic@ArchieComics.com

Cooper W. sent to Sonic@ArchieComics.com

Marshal D. sent to Sonic@ArchieComics.com

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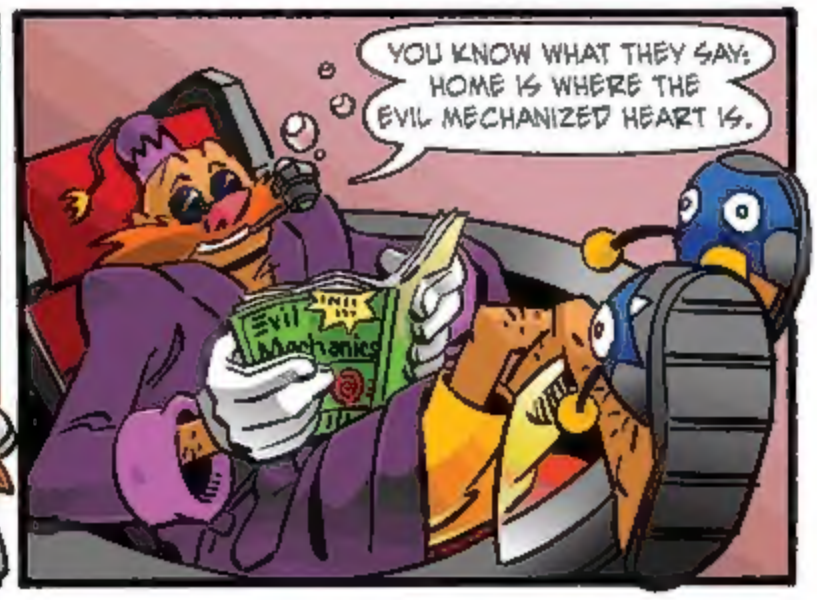
OFF PANEL

SCRIPT: TYLER CAPPS PENCILS: EVAN STANLEY
INKS: TERRY AUSTIN COLORS: ALEAH BAKER



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SONIC-GRAMS

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P.O. BOX #419 MAMARONECK, NY 10543-0419 E-MAIL: SONIC@ARCHIECOMICS.COM

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Dear 'Sonic Grams,'
Hi my name is Trevor and I have a few questions.

Hello, Trevor! The usual it is!

1. Will Honey the Cat be in any comics?

It's possible! If we get enough requests we'll do our best to make this a reality!

2. Was Nicole's design based off of any other characters?

Nicole, along with a lot of the new universe designs are fabricated to look more in tune with Sonic's world! Ideas and aspects of a lot of previously established Sega characters were used to influence these changes!

3. In STH 253 I saw that some of Eggman's minions had Extreme Gear. How did they get it?

Eggman has A LOT of factories where his genius designs are created, Extreme Gear are a must for his Egg Army!

You guys make the best comics ever!

Trevor H. sent to Sonic@ArchieComics.com

Thanks, Trevor! We'll keep making the best as long as we have awesome fans such as yourself!

Dear 'Sonic Grams,'
I really like the Countdown to Chaos arc, especially because we get to see all of Sonic's friends designed differently. I like Antoine's new look a lot better than his old one and I especially like Uncle Chuck's new look.

Great! I'm glad you like it! Antoine is so cool, especially with his new spinning sword slash attack and Chuck, you gotta love that 'stache!

I love Lamar Wells' artwork. He's a very talented guy. Anyways I would also like to say that I am an aspiring Sonic the Hedgehog artist and my "Sky is the Limit" dream is to be a penciler, writer, or both for Sonic the Hedgehog comics. If the Sonic comic artists have any advice or tips for me I would love to hear them!

Joey E. sent to Sonic@ArchieComics.com

Thanks for writing in, Joey! Our Sonic team of artists have a lot of talent! Many of them took life drawing classes and studied at colleges for comic books, so start there and never stop drawing!

See ya'll next month for the finale of COUNTDOWN TO CHAOS!

COLLECTOR COVER SPOTLIGHT

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